Scholarship Scheme under which financial assistance is provided to the 10762 meritorious students of rural areas studying in classes IX & X and also to 17000 meritorious students studying at post-matric to post-graduate level. The rate of scholarship ranges from Rs. 250/- per month for Class IX & X to Rs. 750/- per month for post graduates. The scheme is open to all including SC/ST/OBC. Under the Scheme of Scholarship to Students from Non-Hindi Speaking States for Post-Matric Studies in Hindi, the rate of scholarship ranges from Rs. 300/- to 1000/- per month.

(b) and (c) The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment implements the National Overseas Scholarship (NOS) scheme and Dr. Ambedkar National Scholarship Scheme for meritorious SC students. Under the NOS scheme, 20 Scholarships (17 for SC) are provided for pursuing higher studies abroad in the field of Engineering, Technology and Science.

Under the Dr. Ambedkar National Scholarship Scheme, first 3 Scheduled Caste students scoring highest marks in the regular Class X level CBSE examination/Education Board/Council of each State/UT are given scholarships @ Rs. 60000, 50000 and 40000 per annum, respectively. In addition, there are 167 special merit scholarships of Rs. 10,000/- per annum each to be given to Scheduled Caste meritorious students securing next higher marks after third position. These special scholarships are distributed to various States in proportion to the Scheduled Caste population in the State.

The Ministry of Tribal Affairs gives 10 scholarships under National Overseas Scholarships to ST students for studying abroad for pursuing Master Level Courses, Ph.D. and Postdoctoral research programmes in the field of Engineering, Technology and Science. This scheme includes actual fees charged by the institution and other allowances like maintenance allowances, contingency allowances, Air fair etc.

(d) Does not arise.

UGC's expenditure on litigation

669. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the University Grants Commission has spent huge amount on litigation pertaining to various disputes with the Research Scientist Association;

(b) what was the general dispute between the UGC and the Research Scientist Association;

(c) since how many years this expensive litigation has been waged;

(d) the expenses the UGC incurred on this account; and

(e) the steps proposed to ensure that the UGC spents its money on more productive uses and for higher education?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Seats in IIMs

670. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to increase seats in all the IIMs;

(b) the existing capacity of each IIM;

(c) the plans to increase capacity of the IIMs;

(d) the reasons for this expansion; and

(e) the likely expenditure to be incurred by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): (a) to (c) Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs) propose to increase their intake in some of their programmes from the academic year 2005-2006. The details of the existing capacity of each IIM along with increase in intake and the introduction of the new programmes proposed for the academic year 2005-2006 are given in the Statement (*see* below).

(d) and (e) The proposed expansion is to meet the growing demands of the nation's managerial manpower development. There will be no cost to the Government for the introduction of the new programmes in respect of IIM Ahmedabad, IIM Bangalore and IIM Calcutta. Necessary funds will be provided by the Government for the above said purpose in respct of IIM Lucknow, IIM Indore and IIM Kozhikode.